



BROOKLYN'S IN THE HOUSE

NEWS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE D. CLARKE

11th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Representing: Brownsville, Ocean Hill, Crown Heights, Greater Flatbush, East Flatbush, Kensington, Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus, Prospect Heights, Prospect Gardens, Grand Army Plaza, Windsor Terrace, Flatbush and Midwood

September 25, 2009

Empowering Our Future Leaders of Tomorrow

On Monday, September 21, 2009, I had the pleasure of speaking to over 100 young people in Jack and Jill, Inc. They gathered on Capitol Hill for their "On The Hill Legislative Summit of 2009." The teens joined their peers from across the nation to discuss how they could make a difference in their community, school and campuses. I had the opportunity to share my advice on how they can be effective leaders in their local communities.

I reminded the youth that the leadership skills that they develop in Jack and Jill, Inc. will provide them with the tools they need to tackle our nation's greatest challenges.

I applaud the work Jack and Jill, Inc. has done to provide opportunities for these children. For over 70 years they have instilled the values that today's leaders must embody to for the next generation.



Rep. Clarke Addresses Teens at Jack and Jill Legislative Summit on Capitol Hill

Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke Votes to Extend Unemployment Benefits

Although economists have begun to say that the recession is mostly over, the unemployment problem is expected to linger for several more months. But while jobs are being lost at a slower pace, the unemployment rate is still climbing.

That is why on Tuesday, September 22, I voted in favor of H.R.3548, the Unemployment Extension Compensation Act of 2009. This legislation will extend unemployment benefits by up to 13 weeks for over 300,000 jobless workers who reside in high unemployment States, including New York.

New York City has been hit hard by the economic down turn. It is essential that New Yorkers receive the extended benefits they need to sustain their livelihoods and take care of their families. The legislation would extend unemployment benefits by up to 13 weeks for over 300,000 jobless workers who reside in high unemployment States and who are projected to run out of unemployment compensation by the end of September (and for over one million workers otherwise exhausting benefits before the end of the year).

The Senate is expected to take up the bill soon.



Dear Neighbor:

As the youngest black woman serving in Congress, I am honored to be chosen by my esteemed colleagues to serve as Whip for the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) in the 111th Congress.

I am proud to be the Co-Chair of this year's Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference from September 23rd-September 26th in Washington, DC.

The CBC was formed 40 years ago by thirteen black Members of Congress, including my predecessor, the Honorable Shirley Chisholm. We have certainly come a long way in these 40 years, with this historic election of America's first black president. I am using my position as Whip to continue our Caucus' legacy as the conscience of the Congress.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the 111th Congress to shape a legislative agenda to address the needs of my constituents.

Sincerely,
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Rep. Clarke Celebrates Climate Week NYC

This week government and business leaders from around the world came to New York City for a series of high-level meetings and events focused on one of the most urgent issue of our time: climate change.

Taking place just seventy days before the UN Climate Change Conference, Climate Week NYC will provide business, government and citizens a platform to demonstrate their support for a comprehensive climate change prevention strategy.

The results of global warming include storms of increasing intensity, polar ice cap deterioration, increasing desertification and refugees fleeing extreme weather. New York City is especially sensitive to the impacts of out-of-control global warming. A one-degree rise in temperature could more than double heat related deaths in New York City. A new report by a Florida State researcher shows that rising sea levels and massive coastal flooding would impact coastal New York more than others. The Battery Tunnel, Lincoln Tunnel, the entire subway system, LaGuardia and Kennedy airports are all at risk if hurricanes continue to intensify and sea-levels rise.

First and foremost, we must pass green economy legislation that cuts U.S. global warming pollution. Constituents of my Congressional District in Brooklyn are amongst the Nation's most vulnerable. Given how hard the economic crisis has hit our district, we need the green economy to kick into high gear.

If our country is serious about protecting its citizens and the planet, we'll pass strong climate legislation as soon as possible. I support H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act, which would set us on a pathway to economic prosperity through green job creation. I also support a letter to the House leadership that strengthens provisions in this bill. Further, I highlighted the issues surrounding climate change in an op-ed article I wrote in conjunction with Greenpeace.

In Congress, I will continue to work with my colleagues to develop a comprehensive 21st century alternative energy policy that protects our environment, stimulates our economy, and reduces our dependence on 20th century energy sources.

Rep. Clarke Congratulates SUNY Downstate and the Arthur Ashe Institute

On December 3, 1992, two months before his death, Arthur Ashe announced the creation of the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health (AAIUH) in response to concerns about health care delivery to our nation's multiethnic communities. Too often minority communities lack access to adequate healthcare services and suffer from late detection of diseases such as HIV and AIDS.

More than a decade later, the Institute continues to develop and implement effective programs that encourage people to take a proactive approach to their health care. Congratulations are in order for the Arthur Ashe Institute on receiving the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities Grant through the Department of Health and Human Services.

Health care reform can no longer avoid the question of health care disparities. The SUNY Downstate Medical Center and Arthur Ashe Institute recognize the needs of those in distress, and work to prevent the gap from widening further, because of undue health care costs. I am proud to have been able to help these well deserved organizations receive this grant from HHS and will continue to work with SUNY Down State and the Arthur Ashe Institute located in the 11th Congressional district of Brooklyn to ensure that our communities have access to health care that is not only affordable but provides culturally appropriate health care education as well.

Legislative Spotlight

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), H.R. 3017, was re-introduced in the 111th Congress by Rep. Barney Frank in June of this year.

This legislation extends federal employment discrimination protections to sexual orientation and gender identity. Currently, race, religion, gender, national origin, age and disability are afforded protection under federal employment discrimination laws.

Specifically, this bill would:

- Prohibit public and private sector employers from making decisions about hiring, firing, promoting or compensating an employee based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

- Strictly prohibits preferential treatment based on quotas, and mandates that no claims will be permitted based on statistics.

- Exempts members of the Armed Forces, veteran preference and religious organizations.

- Does not require employers to provide benefits to domestic partners.

However, the recently re-introduced bill, H.R. 3017, is "inclusive" in that transgendered individuals are also extended federal employment discrimination protections under this bill. A congressional hearing on H.R. 3017 occurred this Wednesday September 23, 2009. A mark-up of the bill is expected to follow soon.

I intend to vote in support of the re-introduced ENDA, H.R. 3017, in both the Education and Labor Committee and on the House floor.

